



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/487,330	01/19/2000	Taisuke Nakamura	Q056606	3044

7590 12/11/2002

Sughrue Mion Zinn Macpeak & Seas  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue N W  
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER
----------

TRAN, HENRY N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2674

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2002

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/487,330

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA, TAISUKE

Examiner

HENRY N. TRAN

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 8-15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 January 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 04 October 2002 is: a) ☐ approved b) ☒ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This Office action is in response to the applicant's amendment and formal drawings filed 10/04/02 (Paper Nos. 9 and 10). The amendments to the claims and applicant's remarks were considered, with the results set forth as following.

1. The amendment was entered. Claims 6-15 are pending in this application.

#### ***Drawings***

2. The examiner disapproved the formal drawings filed on 10/04/04 (Paper No. 10) because: only the first four sheets of the claimed five sheets of the formal drawings were received; and the fifth sheet that includes figure 5 is missing. The drawings of figures 1-4 have been approved. The applicant is requested to provide the formal drawing for figure 5.

#### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claim 7 is objected because it is dependent upon a canceled base claim 1.

Examiner's suggestion: Re-write claim 7 in independent form including all of the limitations of the old base claim 1 and any intervening claims for placing it in condition for allowance.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 6 and 8-15 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to a method and an apparatus for driving a display device. Each independent claims 6, 8, and 13 identifies the uniquely distinct features: "wherein the resistance values of said resistors (4, 5, 6) are set to be substantially equal to each other

Art Unit: 2674

whereby the sum of currents flowing through said light emitters (1, 2, 3) is maintained at the predetermined value“ (claim 6); “wherein said controller (14) includes a plurality of switches (10, 11, 12) respectively connected to said light emitters (1, 2, 3), for individually controlling whether or not the currents are flowing through said light emitters connected thereto”, and “a plurality of control signal generators (7, 8, 9) for respectively generating a control signal to said switches” (claim 8); and “a sum of currents flowing through said light emitters (1, 2, 3) is maintained at a predetermined value”, and “a converter (16) for adjusting the power supplied to said light emitters (1, 2, 3) from said power source (15)” (claim 13) (see figure 5). The closest prior art, Ryan, Jr. et al (U.S. Patent 6,028,597) and Yoshihara et al (U.S. Patent 6,115,016) disclose conventional display device, either singularly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations in combination with other claimed limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. The Corrected drawings (Paper No. 10) are not fully submitted because the drawing of figure 5 is missing (see the above paragraph 2).

7. The amendments for the specification have been entered. The objection to the specification is therefore withdrawn.

8. The rejection of the claims 16-28 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph has been withdrawn due to the cancellation of claims 1-5 and 16-34.

Art Unit: 2674

9. The rejection of claims 1-5 and 29-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been withdrawn due to the cancellation of claims 1-5 and 16-34.

10. Claims 6 and 8-15 are allowed as indicated above.

11. Claim 7 is objected (see the above paragraph 3).

***Conclusion***

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **HENRY N. TRAN** whose telephone number is (703) 308-8410. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri from 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **RICHARD A. HJERPE**, can be reached at (703) 305-4709.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Art Unit: 2674

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

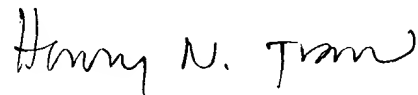
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314 (for technology Center 2600 only)**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding  
should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office Whose telephone  
number is (703) 306-0377.



HENRY N. TRAN  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2674

hnt  
December 10, 2002